Atco Avenue Ground Water Contamination

Atco Avenue Waterford Township Camden County

BLOCK: Various **LOT:** Various

Community Relations Coordinator: Heather Swartz (609) 984-7135

SITE DESCRIPTION/RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

This private potable well contamination case is located in New Jersey's ecologically sensitive Pinelands area. Sampling conducted by the Camden County Health Department between 1990 and 1992 identified 63 private potable wells in the Atco area of Waterford Township that were contaminated with volatile organic compounds and/or mercury at levels exceeding New Jersey Drinking Water Standards. The primary volatile organic contaminants were trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (also known as perchloroethylene, or PCE), dichloroethylene (DCE), trichloroethane (TCA) and benzene. Point-of-Entry Treatment (POET) systems were installed on the wells with funds provided by NJDEP to supply potable water for the residents. In 1996, NJDEP's Remedial Response Element completed a water supply alternatives analysis that concluded the most cost-effective long-term remedy was the continued use of POET systems in the affected homes; however, Waterford Township elected to extend public water lines to the area instead. NJDEP agreed to provide the Township with funds equal to the cost of monitoring and maintaining the POET systems for 20 years to help pay for the water line. Construction of the water lines and connection of the properties were completed in 1999. Approximately 185 properties with contaminated wells or wells at risk of becoming contaminated were connected to the water lines. In 2001, NJDEP completed a source investigation for the site that identified a local fuel service facility as the likely source of the benzene contamination in private potable wells on Cooper Road and a dry cleaning establishment as the likely source of the TCE and PCE in wells in the Pamela Court area. No likely sources were identified for the other private wells due to the relatively low levels of contaminants detected and the widespread distribution of the contaminated wells. In addition, no source was identified for the mercury contamination that was detected in some of the wells. Due to the widely scattered locations of the mercury-contaminated wells and the historical land use in the area, NJDEP has concluded the mercury contamination may be attributable to one or more potential non-point sources.